

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
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S E C R E T USNATO 03420

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, PROG, CA, FR, US
SUBJECT: NATO EAST-WEST STUDY: FRENCH DRAFT OF PART III;
STATUS OF CANADIAN DRAFT OF PART III; EUROCOMMUNISM

REFS: (A) USNATO 3334; (B) USNATO 3375

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1. SUMMARY: JESSEL (DEPUTY PERM REP, FRANCE) HAS
UNDERLINED TO US THAT FRENCH DRAFT SUBMITTED FOR PART III
OF NATO EAST-WEST STUDY REPRESENTS MAJOR EFFORT BY
PARIS TO PRODUCE A TEXT WHICH WOULD ENABLE FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN MEANINGFUL FULFILLMENT OF MANDATE
FOR STUDY. WE WOULD JUDGE THAT FRENCH DRAFT DOES
INDEED REFLECT SERIOUS ENDEAVOR BY OFFICIALS SEEKING
TO STRENGTHEN PARTICIPATION OF FRANCE IN STUDY AND
THAT, ACCORDINGLY, WE SHOULD WEIGH CAREFULLY OUR
REACTIONS IN COMMITTEE TO THE DRAFT. (NEXT SPC
MEETING ON EAST-WEST STUDY SCHEDULED APRIL 6.)
END SUMMARY.

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2. JESSEL ASKED POLAD APRIL 3 TO DISCUSS PART III OF
NATO EAST-WEST STUDY. JESSEL EMPHASIZED THAT FRENCH
DRAFT FOR PART III (REFTELS) WAS PRODUCT OF MUCH HARD
WORK AND DIFFICULT CLEARANCE PROCESS IN PARIS. HE
HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A SERIOUS EFFORT
TO PRESENT IMPLICATIONS TO BE DRAWN FROM PARTS I AND II
OF STUDY. POLAD COMMENTED THAT FRENCH DRAFT HAD BEEN

READ WITH INTEREST AT USNATO AND THAT TEXT AND UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION THEREOF HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON. POLAD NOTED EMPHASIS IN DRAFT ON NEEDS FOR STRONG NATO DEFENSE AND PURSUIT OF DETENTE AS WELL AS, FOR INSTANCE, DRAFT'S STRESS ON IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RECOGNITION OF SOVIET INTEREST IN WESTERN CREDITS MACHINERY, AND TECHNOLOGY. JESSEL NODDED AND SAID DRAFTERS HAD MANAGED TO DEVELOP FORMULATIONS TO ENABLE REFERENCE TO SUBJECTS SUCH AS THE LATTER IN STUDY'S IMPLICATIONS SECTION. HE RECOGNIZED THAT US DRAFT WENT FURTHER IN SOME RESPECTS, BUT HE HOPED THAT MUCH OF FRENCH DRAFT MIGHT BE ACCEPTED. WHEN POLAD UNDERLINED THAT IN MULTILATERAL FORA AGREED TEXTS OFTEN INCORPORATED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, JESSEL READILY CONCURRED, BUT AGAIN STRESSED EFFORT WHICH FRENCH DRAFT REFLECTED.

3. JESSEL THEN ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF ANTICIPATED CANADIAN DRAFT FOR PART III. POLAD REPLIED HE UNDERSTOOD CANADIAN DRAFT WAS AWAITING OTTAWA'S FINAL APPROVAL AND THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD BE BRIEFER THAN EITHER THE US OR FRENCH DRAFTS. JESSEL HOPED CANADIANS WOULD NOT BE "TOO INSISTENT" ON THEIR TEXT. (POLAD SUBSEQUENTLY RECONFIRMED WITH CANADIAN DELEGATION THAT OTTAWA'S CLEARANCE WAS STILL AWAITED. CANADIANS HAD TOLD US EARLIER THAT AMBASSADOR FORD IN MOSCOW HAD PREPARED
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DRAFT FOR PART III AND THAT TEXT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED LAST WEEK TO OTTAWA.)

4. ON EUROCOMMUNISM PARAGRAPHS OF PART II OF STUDY, JESSEL VOLUNTEERED THAT WHILE THE "MOST IMMEDIATE" CONCERN FOR FRANCE OVER EUROCOMMUNISM NOW HAD DISSIPATED, EUROCOMMUNISM REMAINED A KEY PROBLEM FOR ITALY. JESSEL DID NOT FORESEE ANY CHANGE IN THE FRENCH POSITION THAT THE PARAGRAPHS IN PART II ON EUROCOMMUNISM MUST BE DELETED.

5. COMMENT: JESSEL'S MESSAGE WAS CLEARLY THAT PARIS HAS MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO PRODUCE A PART III DRAFT WHICH WOULD ENABLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN MEANINGFUL COMPLETION OF THE EAST-WEST STUDY MANDATE. WE WOULD JUDGE THAT THE FRENCH DRAFT DOES INDEED REFLECT SERIOUS ENDEAVOR BY OFFICIALS SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN STUDY AND THAT, ACCORDINGLY, WHILE WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET THE FRENCH OCCUPY THE DRIVER'S SEAT IN THE PREPARATION OF PART III, NEITHER SHOULD WE REJECT THEIR CONTRIBUTION OUT OF HAND. BENNETT

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